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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 615
By Hood

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Middle Tennessee State University Quarterback Wes Counts upon being named the Sun Belt Conference's Player of the Year for 2001.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for this General Assembly to honor those exceptional young people who display diligence, determination and exceptional skill in the realm of athletics; and

WHEREAS, Middle Tennessee State University Quarterback Wes Counts has shown such athletic skill and achievement, and has been named the Sun Belt Conference's Player of the Year for 2001 by the coaches of the Sun Belt Conference; and

WHEREAS, during the 2001 season, Wes Counts' exceptional quarterback skills resulted in him passing for 2,327 yards and 17 touchdowns, while throwing only four interceptions; and

WHEREAS, he completed 188 of 259 passes for an unparalleled 72.6 completion percentage, which led the nation; and

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WHEREAS, Wes Counts' extremely accurate passing skills yielded a pass efficiency rating of 166.63, which ranked third nationally; and

WHEREAS, Wes Counts also led the Sun Belt Conference in passing, total offense, and passing efficiency in 2001; and

WHEREAS, Wes Counts set single season school records in passing yardage and passing touchdowns in a single game by torching the Idaho Vandals for 459 yards and six touchdowns; and

WHEREAS, Wes Counts further demonstrated his remarkable ability to lead the Blue Raiders by engineering the greatest comeback in school history. He threw for 218 yards in the fourth quarter alone and guided MTSU to 28 fourth quarter points to beat New Mexico State; and

WHEREAS, Wes Counts also showcased his remarkable talents by completing 28 of 35 passes for 308 yards in an upset win over Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, Wes Counts has had a marvelous career at Middle Tennessee State University. He holds career school records in passing yards, passing attempts, completions, touchdowns, and total offense; and

WHEREAS, his great skill at quarterback has also allowed him to amass several single season school records which include: most passing yards, most passing completions, best completion percentage, total offensive plays, total offensive yardage, and most 200-yard and 300-yard passing games; and

WHEREAS, Wes Counts compiled numerous honors throughout the 2001 season including: First Team All-Sun Belt Conference, Sun Belt Conference Player of the Week for the weeks of September 24th and October 8th, and USA Today.com Sunbelt Conference Player of the Week for the weeks of September 29th, October 6th and October 27th; and

WHEREAS, not only does Wes Counts excel in athletics, but he is also a proficient and dedicated scholar. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Concrete Industry Management in May of 2001 and is currently working on his Master's Degree in Business; and

WHEREAS, Wes Counts displays his singular leadership qualities off the field through his service to various community organizations; and

WHEREAS, his diligence in public service was recognized in 1999 as Wes Counts was voted to the AFCA Good Works Team; and

WHEREAS, Wes Counts is an outstanding athlete, but he is also a young man of exceptional character; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee takes great pride in the outstanding combination of athletic ability and sterling character embodied by Wes Counts; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Middle Tennessee State University Quarterback Wes Counts upon being named the Sun Belt Conference's Player of the Year for 2001 and wish him well in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for Wes Counts with this final clause omitted from such copy.